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ACTIVITIES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THE FINAL ACT OF THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE (CSCE) AND OTHER CSCE DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING THE CHARTER OF PARIS FOR A NEW EUROPE AND THE HELSINKI DOCUMENT 1992, AS WELL AS ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN IN THE LIGHT OF THE FINAL ACT OF THE CSCE

Report by the Executive Secretary

1. This Report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 2 of Commission decision C (48) related to continued efforts by ECE for the protection and amelioration of the Mediterranean ecosystem as called for by the CSCE meeting held in Palma de Mallorca in 1990, and paragraph 2 of decision D (48) regarding implementation of pertinent provisions of the relevant CSCE documents within the ECE framework, including practical follow-up of, and appropriate contributions to, the first and second meeting of the CSCE Economic Forums held in Prague in March 1993 and March 1994 respectively.

2. The information in this paper is presented in three parts: Part I describes general ECE cooperation with the CSCE, including participation in relevant meetings. Part II elaborates on ECE activities relating to the four substantive items contained in the indicative agenda for the second meeting of the CSCE Economic Forum to be held in Prague from 15 to 17 March 1994. Part III gives an account of ECE participation in activities related to the Mediterranean with a particular emphasis on environmental questions.

Part I: General ECE cooperation with the CSCE, including participation in relevant meetings

3. The increase in membership of the ECE to 54 over the past year has once more closely aligned ECE membership with the CSCE Participating States.

4. The ECE secretariat continues to cooperate with the CSCE in economic matters as called for in the Final Act of the CSCE, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, documents of the Bonn Conference on Economic Cooperation, and the Helsinki Document (1992), notably in the areas of statistics, international trade, industry and technology, and the environment.

5. The Commission's subsidiary bodies take into account in their work the provisions of the relevant CSCE documents, in particular the Charter of Paris, the Helsinki Document (1992) and the Bonn Document, which call for multilateral implementation within the framework of the ECE. For possible implications of the Helsinki Document 1992: "Challenges of Change" for the work of the ECE, see document E/ECE/1273. The Commission's subsidiary bodies also contribute in the appropriate manner to the CSCE Economic Forum, including its programme of seminars, on matters where the ECE has competence and can provide expertise and experience and at the same time avoid possible duplication with activities undertaken by other international organizations.

6. The secretariat has participated in all relevant meetings of the CSCE held since the Commission's forty-eighth session, including the CSCE Mediterranean Seminar held in Valletta (Malta) from 17 to 21 May 1993, the Rome Council Meeting held from 30 November to 1 December 1993, the Special Ad Hoc Meeting of Senior Officials to identify international projects to assist affected States in the region to better cope with the effects of the Sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) held in Vienna from 31 January to 1 February 1994, and the second meeting of the Economic Forum, established under the terms of the Helsinki Document (1992), held in Prague from 15 to 17 March 1994. The non-participating Mediterranean States, all of which were represented at the level of Ministers at the CSCE Rome Meeting, expressed in informal contacts strong interest in ECE programmes, which could involve all Mediterranean countries. Secretariat reports on each of these meetings are available. It has further participated in an active exchange of documentation on relevant activities of the two bodies in order to avoid duplication of functions.

Part II: UN/ECE activities relating to the indicative agenda of the second meeting of the CSCE Economic Forum of March 1994

7. The indicative agenda for the second meeting of the CSCE Economic Forum contained four key issues of the transition process, closely reflecting and expanding upon those identified for the first Forum held in Prague in March 1993. The ECE carries out significant activities in each of these areas. In accordance with the mandate of the CSCE Economic Forum, namely to give political stimulus to the dialogue on the transition to and the development of free market economies, "to suggest practical efforts for the development of free market systems and economic cooperation" and "to encourage activities already under way in OECD, EIB, EBRD and UN/ECE", the ECE submitted a six-part contribution to the second meeting of the CSCE Economic Forum in response to the stipulation in the Helsinki document that contributions to the Forum by the above-mentioned organizations will be requested. The ECE contribution consisted of (a) a conference version of the present document, highlighting ECE activities relating to the agenda of the second meeting of the CSCE Economic Forum; (b) ECE's Programme of Workshops; and (c) four discussion papers responsive to each of the substantive items, respectively, of the indicative agenda for the second Forum (see paras. 11 through 43 below).

8. With reference to (b) above, mention is made in the CSCE enabling document of the possible convening of open-ended seminars to consider specific steps in fulfilling the overall mandate, to be attended by experts and to be organized by one or more CSCE State[s] and/or an international organization, possibly in cooperation with private organizations. At the first meeting of the Forum, the list of workshops held and planned by the ECE provided specific input for topics proposed at the Forum for such seminars. The updated ECE Programme of Workshops is for follow-up at the 1994 Forum, in accordance with item 3 of its indicative agenda, listed below.

9. The Executive Secretary received an official visit in January 1994 from the Secretary-General and other high-level staff of the new CSCE secretariat in Vienna. The Executive Secretary welcomed on that occasion the possibility of mutually participating in seminars organized by one or the other institution, and also suggested exploring possibilities of joint workshops. As a follow-up to this exchange, the ECE secretariat contributed a paper on Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in the ECE Region for distribution at the first CSCE Economic Forum Seminar on Promoting the Creation of Small and Medium-Sized Businesses, held in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan) from 23 to 25 February 1994.

10. In support of the Forum's function to provide for the exchange of views and experience on the transition process, including relevant work in the international organizations, and to serve as a mechanism for the review of the extent to which CSCE commitments in the areas of economics, environment and science and technology have been carried out, and on the clear understanding that the political impulses expected of the Forum in those three fields will complement and support the work of international organizations, the secretariat wishes to bring to the attention of the Commission the following activities of the ECE that relate to the substantive items on the agenda of the second meeting of the CSCE Economic Forum (items 2a-2d and 3 respectively) as follows:

Agenda item 2(a): Further consideration of key elements in a favourable business climate, in particular the human factor, as well as legal and institutional frameworks, and the role of public administration in their implementation

11. Since its establishment in 1952, the Working Party on International Contract Practices in Industry, a group of legal experts operating under the auspices of the Committee on the Development of Trade, one of the ECE's principal subsidiary bodies, has drawn up Guides, standard clauses and model contracts which facilitate trade, foreign direct investment and industrial cooperation between east and west. Following the changes in central and eastern Europe during 1989-1990, the Working Party has begun to provide general advice and technical assistance on the legal problems arising from the transition of these countries to market economies. In 1990 it prepared a Guide entitled "Legal Aspects to Privatization" (ECE/TRADE/180) on the subject of privatization, identifying the laws, the main methods of privatization and the chief problems Governments would have to tackle. It was used as a model by the Governments of Belarus and Ukraine in the drafting of their privatization laws. Recognizing that the lack of knowledge about the legal framework was deterring foreign investors in Europe, the Working Party prepared a further Guide entitled "Privatization and Foreign Direct Investment in Central and Eastern Europe: Legal Aspects" (ECE/TRADE/189) to inform

investors on the main legal issues surrounding the establishment, purchase and operation of a business in eastern Europe.

12. The ECE cooperated with the Transnational Corporations and Management Division (TCMD) (formerly the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Development in the preparation of Volume II of the World Investment Directory on central and eastern Europe, which treats the regulatory framework for foreign direct investment in most of these countries, including some CIS countries and other independent republics of the former Soviet Union.

13. The ECE secretariat played a part in the United Nations mission to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to assess the environment for market economy reform in each of the three countries, advising on the legal preconditions and institutions for private sector development in the region. There has been active follow-up as a result of these consultations.

14. The Senior Adviser to the Executive Secretary participated in an expert group meeting convened by TCMD in New York on international legal questions related to foreign direct investment, as an input into the United Nations World Investment Report 1993.

15. A third Guide on "Financing East-West Trade and Privatization in Central and Eastern Europe" has been prepared and further work will take place in the area of property law in the countries in transition (see below under item 2(b)).

16. For a more comprehensive treatment of this agenda item see ECE discussion paper: Recent Economic Developments in the Transition Economies and Selected Policy Issues, prepared as an input to the second meeting of the CSCE Economic Forum.

Agenda item 2(b): Favourable conditions for mutual trade and investments in the CSCE area

17. In 1993, the secretariat prepared for the Committee on the Development of Trade a study on the "Successes and Shortcomings of Privatization: Implications for Economies in Transition and their Place in the World Market" (TRADE/R.604), which inter alia described the experience of privatization in a number of key industries, notably banking and telecommunications; and an analysis of the "Conditions Conducive to Expanding Trade among the Economies in Transition" (TRADE/R.603).

18. A seminar on Financing East-West Trade and Privatization in Central and Eastern Europe was held on 13 September 1993 during the forty-second session of the Working Party on International Contract Practices in Industry. The purpose of the seminar was to bring together lawyers, bankers and businessmen from east and west to discuss issues in preparation for a Guide on this topic. The Working Party approved the revised version of the Guide and agreed that it be published in 1994.

19. At the above-mentioned seminar, the Working Party further decided to prepare a Guide on property law in central and eastern Europe. A draft Guide on the "Adaption of Property Law of Central and Eastern Europe, Including

Questions of Ownership, Valuation, Security and Restitution" will be discussed at the Working Party's next session.

20. In the framework of its on-going work on the promotion of foreign direct investment in the region, the Committee on the Development of Trade jointly with the Centre for International Cooperation and Development in Ljubljana (Slovenia) held a workshop on "Promoting Foreign Direct Investment in a Small Country in Transition (SCT)" in Ljubljana, 29-30 November 1993.

21. Important progress was achieved by the Working Party on the Facilitation of International Trade Procedures (TRADE/WP.4). In the area of data elements and automatic data interchange, the development of UN/EDIFACT continued at a fast pace with a total number of 168 messages in the process of development. Participation in the activities of the regional EDIFACT Boards, which contribute to activities of UN/EDIFACT standards between sessions, expanded considerably. The Working Party approved the establishment of an African EDIFACT Board (AFEB), and has noted the establishment of a Trade Facilitation Body in Gabon and a national EDIFACT Board in the Russian Federation. The Working Party also adopted a set of guidelines, Message Design Guidelines (MDG) for the development of EDIFACT messages and approved the establishment of a new MDG group, which will review Message Design Guidelines on an on-going basis.

22. In the field of trade and investment promotion, the secretariat continued to publish its quarterly, East-West Investment News.

23. For a more comprehensive treatment of this agenda item see ECE discussion paper: Measures and Conditions for Improving Trade and Investment in the CSCE Region, prepared as an input to the second meeting of the CSCE Economic Forum.

Agenda item 2(c): The role of infrastructures as key elements in the transition process

24. After decades of isolation, during which transport infrastructures were badly neglected, there is, in countries in transition, a considerable need for infrastructure development as a means of opening up those countries and integrating them into the European and world economy. Such development must, however, be carried out according to a coordinated and commonly accepted plan indicating the major international itineraries to be developed and the common parameters to which the infrastructures of those itineraries should conform.

25. Such a plan for infrastructure development already exists on an all-European scale. This plan has been elaborated and continuously kept under review under the auspices of the ECE since its creation in 1947. The ECE international transport infrastructure agreements - the European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR), the European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC) and the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) - encompass indeed the all-European infrastructure networks of major international itineraries for road, rail and combined transport respectively and establish the minimum technical parameters to which such infrastructures should conform.

26. These agreements, particularly in regard to the respective networks, are being revised to take fully into account the new political situation in the

region, and more especially the integration of newly independent States into the all-European networks as well as the new east-west traffic needs.

27. For all European countries, including transition countries, the international itineraries and the infrastructure parameters set up in the ECE infrastructure agreements represent targets to be achieved by their respective Governments within the framework of their investment programmes. However, the actual implementation of the sections of the networks in the various countries was the responsibility of the Governments concerned.

28. As a result of the considerable infrastructural backlog which developed in transition countries after decades of neglect, implementation of the ECE infrastructure agreements is a heavy burden for those Governments in particular, in view of their present financial constraints due to the deep economic recession which followed the initiation of the transition process.

29. With a view to assisting central and east European Governments in the development of their transport infrastructure networks, the ECE has been promoting the development of the Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) network, a selected part of the network contained in the AGR Agreement, and the Trans-European Rail (TER) network, a selected part of the network contained in the AGC Agreement. Both TEM and TER networks include east-west links. Under the auspices of the ECE, central and east European countries are cooperating with a view to a coordinated development of both networks.

30. Development of infrastructures in central and east European countries is a key element in the transition process and in the integration of those countries into the European and world economy. The TEM and TER networks have been identified by the countries concerned as their infrastructure priorities. Support to the development of TEM and TER is a key element in the assistance to those countries in their transition and integration processes.

31. For a more comprehensive treatment of this agenda item see ECE discussion paper: Transport Infrastructure: A Key Element in the Transition Process, prepared as an input to the second meeting of the CSCE Economic Forum.

Agenda item 2(d): Cooperation in the area of science and technology for the development of industry and for the strengthening of its international competitiveness

32. The ECE plays an important role as an implementing agency of CSCE provisions and recommendations falling within its mandate. Since its establishment, the ECE has been used by member Governments as an instrument for promoting intra-regional scientific and technological cooperation, principally by means of the exchange of national experience and information. Science and technology pervade nearly all areas of human activity. Attesting to and responsive to this fact is a publication prepared by the ECE secretariat entitled "Rehabilitation engineering" to be published in 1994 as a contribution to the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons. Owing to the broad scope of application of science and technology, the problem of encouraging cooperation in this field has been of considerable concern to virtually all ECE subsidiary bodies.

33. In 1971, recognizing the major importance of science and technology for economic and social development, the ECE member States decided to strengthen

scientific and technological cooperation within the framework of the ECE and established a new Principal Subsidiary Body: the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Science and Technology (SAST). The revised terms of reference of this body, which were adopted at its nineteenth session in 1991, include the following: (a) exchange of experience between member Governments in the formulation and/or implementation of science and technology policy; (b) formulation of proposals aiming at the promotion of international cooperation in the field of science and technology policy; (c) improvement and coordination of the activities of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission in the field of science and technology; and (d) coordination of the activities of the Commission with other international or intergovernmental organizations dealing with the problems of scientific and technological cooperation.

34. For many years SAST has been a useful instrument for reviewing overall national science and technology policies, including those related to international scientific and technological cooperation. In recent years, the Senior Advisers have also convened a number of seminars which were important gatherings of national experts aimed at establishing and widening cooperation in specific fields. Among the most recent were the seminars on: the prediction of earthquakes (Lisbon, 1988), evaluation in the management of research and development (Madrid, 1989), and the role of long-term forecasting in the formulation of scientific and technological policies (Prague, 1990). In 1992, at its twentieth session the SAST decided to use the occasion of its periodic sessions to hold forum discussions on selected topics of mutual interest relating to science and technology. The topics for these discussions have included the role of forecasting in the formulation of science and technology policies, policies aimed at encouraging innovation, safety aspects of biotechnology, the organization and management of research and development, and managerial aspects of promoting innovation. The Senior Advisers are also engaged in the elaboration and collection of main science and technology indicator statistics in the economies in transition which is considered to be an important component in the formulation and implementation of science and technology policies.

35. In the context of the CSCE, in response to the desire of the participating States to enhance the exchange of information on laws and regulations relating to the safety aspects of genetic engineering, expressed in the Concluding Document of the Vienna CSCE meeting in 1989, the Senior Advisers on Science and Technology have established and maintained an inventory of existing safety guidelines in biotechnology to which more than 25 Governments and a number of international organizations have contributed.

36. Although the area of science and technology was not included among the five priority areas of ECE activities identified by Commission decision O (45) in 1990, it continues to be recognized as an increasingly important factor in economic development. In recent years, the work programme of this body has been streamlined in order to meet the urgent needs of member States in the most effective manner. At present, its programme of work includes the following programme elements: review of changes in national policies, priorities and institutions, and international cooperation; state policy on science and technology aimed at promoting innovation in industry; and the inventory of existing safety guidelines in biotechnology. It should be underlined that this programme of work is implemented in close cooperation with the Commission of the European Community and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

37. As mentioned above, science and technology pervades nearly all areas of human activity, and thus the problem of encouraging cooperation in this field has been of considerable concern to virtually all ECE subsidiary bodies and indeed most of them have served as valuable frameworks for promoting sectoral scientific and technological cooperation and they have made a considerable contribution to strengthening such cooperation. For example, the Working Party on the Chemical Industry examines the development of technologies for the reduction of wastes in the chemical industry and has convened a seminar on biotechnology in the chemical industry. It has prepared publications on engineering plastics, membrane technology, management of plastic wastes, and low- and non-waste technologies in the production of organics. The Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation has organized seminars on new materials and their application in engineering industries, computer-integrated manufacturing, the development and use of powder metallurgy in engineering industries, flexible manufacturing systems, and innovation in biomedical equipment. It has prepared publications on food-processing machinery, growth and structural change in the telecommunication industry, software for industrial automation, and production and use of industrial robots. The Working Party on Steel has organized seminars on restructuring and management techniques in the steel industries in countries in transition, technical and economic aspects of the manufacture and application of coated steel products, and the modernization of the iron and steel industry.

38. The Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems regularly review recent developments and applications of low-waste technologies and environmentally sound products, and this was the subject of a seminar held under their auspices in Warsaw in May 1993. Compatible criteria and principles for establishing environmental product profiles are being developed.

39. The Working Party on Relations between Agriculture and the Environment of the Committee on Agriculture examines economic, legal, technological and regulatory measures for the promotion of environmentally sustainable agriculture and production of healthy food. A symposium on quality in the agri-food sector, held in October 1992 in Spain, examined some technical factors having an impact on product quality, as well as quality control from the production stage up to delivery to the consumer.

40. The Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training addresses a range of technological questions in its field of interest (silviculture, wood harvesting and transport), examining them from the point of view of technology, management and the environment.

41. Through holding seminars, ad hoc meetings and meetings of a group of rapporteurs, as well as at its regular sessions, the Committee on Energy provides information on the latest technical developments in the field of new and renewable sources of energy. The Working Party on Gas examines the problems linked with gas (natural and LPG) markets and their development, and the future role of gas in meeting the energy requirements of the ECE region. The Working Party on Coal exchanges information and views aimed at identifying new methods of coal utilization and accelerating the transfer of advanced combustion and conversion technologies to countries from central and eastern Europe. The Symposium on New Coal Utilization Technologies - Gasification, Liquefaction, Combustion and Environmental Issues was held in Helsinki (Finland) in 1993. The Working Party on Electric Power exchanges information

on prospects of combined production of electric power and heat following from new technologies, such as gas turbines, fluidized-bed combustion, etc. (ECE/ENERGY/18).

42. In response to the profound changes in central and eastern Europe and in the former Soviet Union, coupled with the freeing-up of many trade restrictions, the ECE introduced, inter alia, a new flexible instrument for problem analysis, the exchange of experience and follow-up action, by launching a programme of workshops in order to focus on the specific needs of the countries in transition, to facilitate contacts with the business community, and to generate technical know-how and expert advice. Since 1990, the ECE has assisted in organizing some 100 workshops, some of which are related to scientific and technological cooperation. Among the relevant topics of recent workshops were State science and technology policies aimed at promoting innovation in industry; strategies in privatization and management of engineering industries; restructuring of State-owned enterprises and main policy issues; industrial policies; and rehabilitation engineering. The results of the workshops which have been held to date underline the magnitude of the job which the countries of central and eastern Europe face in developing coherent national industrial strategies and policies and in restructuring, modernizing and revitalizing their industries, especially the large state enterprises.

43. For a more comprehensive treatment of this agenda item see ECE discussion paper: Cooperation in the Area of Science and Technology for the Development of Industry and for the Strengthening of its International Competitiveness, prepared as an input to the second meeting of the CSCE Economic Forum.

Agenda item 3: Reports from seminars and consideration of proposals for topics for 1994

44. An up-to-date programme of workshops was made available to all delegations at the Forum and private discussions were held with the CSCE Secretariat on cooperation between the CSCE and the ECE on jointly organizing seminars and workshops.

Part III: Mediterranean and the environment

45. Since 1976 ECE has regularly adopted a decision to promote economic cooperation in the Mediterranean in the light of the Helsinki Final Act and other Concluding Documents of the CSCE. In response to the latest of these decisions (C (48)), the Commission's subsidiary bodies continue to identify areas of interest, particularly in the field of transport and environment, for economic cooperation in the Mediterranean, within the framework of over-all ECE activities and the Commission's programme of work. It has been recognized that the changes which have taken place in Europe are relevant to the Mediterranean region and, conversely, that economic, social, political and security developments in that region can have a bearing on Europe (see Helsinki Summit Declaration of 1993, para.1). In addition, the Executive Secretary cooperates with the secretariats of ESCWA and ECA and other relevant United Nations bodies and pursues contacts with all Mediterranean countries not members of the Commission, on subjects within the competence of the ECE of common interest to the countries of the Mediterranean region.

46. The ECE secretariat was represented at the CSCE Seminar on the Mediterranean held in May 1993 in Valletta (Malta) (paragraph 10 of decision C (48)) which addressed environmental issues of prime importance to the Mediterranean and concluded that due to the growing pressure on the Mediterranean ecosystem leading towards changes in socio-economic conditions there is a need for applying practical measures in counteracting these changes within the framework of national strategies for sustainable development; for strengthening multilateral cooperation within the Barcelona Convention as an essential means for supplementing these strategies; as well as for assistance to countries lacking technical and financial possibilities, institutional setting and legislative framework.

47. The Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems adopted in 1993 comprehensive guidelines for practical application of the ecosystem approach in day-to-day water management. These guidelines, together with the recommendations to ECE Governments on ecosystems-based water management adopted in 1992, are intended to assist countries including those of the Mediterranean region in their efforts toward the protection and amelioration of ecosystems (paragraph 2 of decision C (48)). This ecosystem approach is considered as a holistic way of viewing, planning and managing the ecosystems components and of promoting sustainability of these components and the environment as a whole. The aim of such a geographically comprehensive approach is to restore, maintain and improve the conditions and characteristics of aquatic ecosystems and water resources. The approach forms a framework for devising integrated strategies oriented at the ecosystems, which encompass rational use of water; prevention, control and reduction of water pollution; the conservation of biotic communities and aesthetic qualities; the protection of natural habitats on shores, marshes and wetlands; and provision of the enhanced health and welfare for catchment areas residents.

48. In addition, under a joint ECE/UNEP project being executed by the ECE secretariat, guidelines are being elaborated on integrated environmental management in countries in transition, covering also the Mediterranean member States.

49. The Senior Advisers continue to promote activities under the new environmental conventions on water management, environmental impact assessment and industrial accidents to facilitate adherence in particular by ECE countries from the Mediterranean region and those in transition. Meetings of Signatories to these Conventions and meetings convened under their auspices are open-ended. Under the 1992 Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, fact-finding missions are being organized to Mediterranean and other countries which have not yet adhered to the Convention to encourage and assist them to do so. Only five Mediterranean countries have signed these Conventions, of which Albania has ratified all three Conventions and Spain the 1992 Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context.

50. The direct interests of the countries of the Mediterranean region in the area of transport are served by the Transport Study Centres in Barcelona and Volos and the Transport Training Centre in Istanbul. The work of these centres forms a valuable input to the programme of the Inland Transport Committee (see document TRANS/R.386). The study underway of a permanent link across the Strait of Gibraltar is another activity of interest to the

countries of this region to which the ECE makes a direct contribution in cooperation with the ECA, at the request of ECOSOC. In 1993, an evaluation report on the studies carried out in the framework of the project in the period 1982-1992 was prepared jointly by ECE and ECA and submitted to the 1993 session of ECOSOC. This report gave rise to an ECOSOC Resolution which requested both regional commissions to take an active part in the follow-up to the project.

51. With regard to energy questions directly affecting the Mediterranean, a workshop on renewable sources of energy will be held in Almeria (Spain) from 3 to 6 May 1994, organized by the Plataforma Solar de Almeria of CIEMAT in cooperation with ECE. The workshop is designed and intended to comply in particular with Commission decision C (48) and to promote the exchange of information and international cooperation in the Mediterranean region relating to the greater use of renewable sources of energy in the interest of sustainable development. Drawing on research, manufacturing and financing expertise gained by European and other countries, the workshop is expected to lead to international cooperative programmes and investments in renewable energies. The CSCE non-participating member States were invited to attend the workshop.